

HighMark Charter School

Fall Reopening Plan



Safety plan to safely open schools in the fall during
Covid-19 pandemic

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HIGHMARK

CHARTER SCHOOL

Hello HighMark Families,

We hope your summer is going well and that you have been able to do fun things with your family. As we prepare to return to school, we want to communicate important information relative to how school will look this year.

We love your students and have truly missed having them with us 4th quarter. Children NEED school! They thrive in a school environment that they cannot get anywhere else. We are planning a normal school opening on August 18th (24th for Kindergartners). We hope to keep school “in the building” with commitment from students, teachers, staff and families.

Together with administrators, Davis County Health, teachers and parents, we have developed guidance for the opening of school with all students having a full schedule with us. We are following guidelines as they are now and will adapt as they change.

What we will do:

- Mitigate risk/spread by encouraging physical distancing, proper hand hygiene, sanitization, wearing masks as needed, hallway flow adjustments, adjusting lunch seating, recess modifications and spacing of students in common areas.
- Be aware of illness/symptoms in students and contact a student’s family immediately if a student exhibits symptoms.
- Monitor positive COVID 19 cases and its spread in our school, and follow the recommendation of health department officials regarding school closures, modified school schedules or in-school adjustments.
- Modify our method of delivery in teaching, however necessary, to ensure the health and well-being of students and staff.
- We will work diligently to fill in the gaps from being out of school 4th quarter.

What you can do:

- Understand that these guidelines are determined by health, education and civic professionals to keep your child in a safe environment while at school.
- Keep your child home if he/she has a fever, cough, cold or flu symptoms, and have them return only when these symptoms have subsided.
- Talk to your child about changes they may notice at school, reinforcing that these measures are in place to preserve their health, and the health around them.
- Send your child to school with a mask and be prepared to wear it as needed.

- As always, please reinforce the importance of respecting the authority of teachers and staff to maintain order in the classroom, hallways, and other areas. There will be signage on the floor for directions in the hallways. Teachers will have procedures in the classroom for entry/exit that will need to be followed.
- Prepare as much as possible to adapt to change. Our rules and requirements are changing daily from the health department and from the Governor.
- Recognize you can choose traditional face-to-face school or some online options for a period of time if needed.
- Know that you as a guardian and parent have the right to keep your child home at any time as you assess risk as it relates to your family. We just need communication from you as this happens.

Also, if you would like your child – for any reason – to not attend school in a traditional on-campus setting, we have an option of distance learning for you.

Please email me directly for the application and guidelines and return it by July 17, 2020.

If you are looking to do this, this information from the Utah Medical Association sent to the state board and Governor which you can read in full, but this section resonated with me. They said they

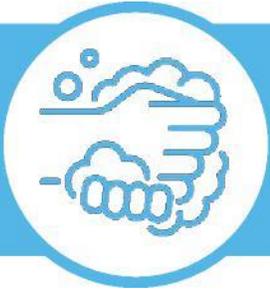
“ . . . strongly advocate that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school. The importance of in-person learning is well-documented, and there is already evidence of the negative impacts on children because of school closures in the spring of 2020. Lengthy time away from school and associated interruption of supportive services often results in social isolation, making it difficult for schools to identify and address important learning deficits as well as child and adolescent physical or sexual abuse, substance use, depression, and suicidal ideation. This, in turn, places children and adolescents at considerable risk of morbidity and, in some cases, mortality.”

We do believe we can teach and keep children safe if they are in school with us. We do honor those who want to look for alternatives to education and will try to make that work in a way that parents and students can feel safe.

This is a long letter, but we want to communicate with you as transparently as possible and ask for your support during this process. The websites that are included will give you details of how we will help keep everyone safe and healthy. Please read it thoroughly and know that we are making every effort to provide the best educational experience possible. I am the COVID coordinator so please contact me with any questions or concerns. mjohnston@hmcharterschool.org 801-476-4627 Ext. 6.

Hope to see everyone soon,

Mary Johnston
Principal



Hygiene Etiquette

Handwashing

Schools will increase instruction and monitoring of student handwashing. Proper hand-washing techniques include lathering hands with soap, scrubbing between fingers, washing the backside of each hand, scrubbing each wrist, washing underneath fingernails and rinsing with water. The process should take 20 seconds.

Elementary schools will provide frequent opportunities for students to wash hands, including before and after recess, lunch and other activities.

Hand sanitizing

If soap and water are not readily available in some classrooms, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol will be used (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer).

Elementary students will also sanitize their hands every time they enter and exit the classroom. Staff in secondary schools will encourage students to sanitize hands each time they enter and exit a classroom and frequently throughout the day.

Students will be instructed to cover all surfaces of their hands with sanitizer and rub them together until their hands feel dry.





Each school will have free-standing hand sanitizing stations positioned throughout the school in high traffic areas, including the main office, library, counseling center, cafeteria and gym. If health conditions allow for concerts, plays and athletic events to be held, the hand sanitizing stations also will be used at the entrances of those events.

Respiratory etiquette

Staff and students will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

No physical contact

Students and staff will be reminded to practice physical distancing when it comes to greetings — no handshakes, high fives or hugs. Air high fives, air elbow bumps or a simple wave can be used in place of physical contact.

Students and staff are encouraged to avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth.



Stay Home When Sick

Don't hesitate to stay home

If you feel sick, stay home, except to get medical care.

Students and staff are asked to stay home from school if they have any of the following COVID-19 symptoms:



• Shortness of breath, sore throat or persistent cough



• Temperature higher than 100.4 degrees



• Congestion or runny nose



• Vomiting or diarrhea



• New loss of taste or smell

Students should also stay home from school **if they are experiencing other illness symptoms** such as severe or long-lasting abdominal pain, rash with fever, strep throat, head lice before first treatment or any other illness that prevents a student from participating comfortably in school activities.

Staff and parents of students are encouraged to notify school officials of any COVID-19 symptoms, positive tests for COVID-19, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed or suspected case. Staff and students who are sick or who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 should stay home.

Accommodating high-risk students and staff

Staff and parents who consider themselves as high-risk, will complete a form with health information that will be shared with the health department to help facilitate contact tracing. Employees will work with their immediate supervisor if there is a concern about risk. High-risk students also will be given the option to attend the district's online school.

Health rooms

Schools will identify a health room where symptomatic individuals can stay until they are able to go home. These rooms will be dedicated to use for students who feel ill once at school. They will not be used for other purposes, such as storage.

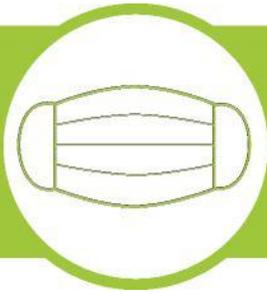
Students or staff who are symptomatic should not come to school. If a student begins

exhibiting symptoms after arriving at school, they will wait in the health room with a facial mask and maintain physical distancing while arrangements are made for them to be picked up by a parent or emergency contact as soon as possible. Parents and guardians need to make sure their emergency contact list is up to date.

Monitor symptoms

Staff will be encouraged to safely and respectfully monitor any observable symptoms in students, such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath. Staff will observe all applicable privacy laws and regulations in doing so. Additionally, schools will continually remind students to self-check for symptoms.





Cloth Face Mask

Face mask etiquette

Cloth masks will be provided for all students and employees. Students will be strongly encouraged to wear masks during the school day. Employees will be directed to wear face masks when physical distancing of 6 feet is not possible. Accommodations will be made for staff and students who have respiratory issues.

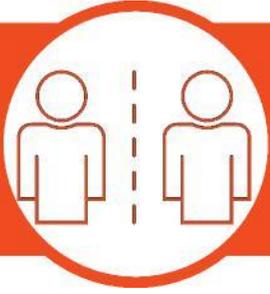
According to the CDC, the COVID-19 virus spreads mainly among people who are in close contact with one another, usually within about 6 feet, so the use of cloth face coverings is important in settings where people are close to each other or where physical distancing is difficult to maintain. Currently, the CDC does not recommend the use of face shields as a substitute for cloth face coverings.

In some instances, face shields will be used as needed for special education, language immersion and an approved requested accommodation.

Visitors, non-regular staff and volunteers

Visitors and volunteers will be required to have a temperature check, complete a symptom checklist and wear a mask upon entry into a school building.





Physical Distancing

One of the best ways to curb the spread of COVID-19 is by doing your best to physically distance from one another. The rule of thumb is to maintain 6 feet of distance between yourself and anyone else. If that distance is maintained, the virus is less likely to be passed from one person to another.



Of course, physical distancing is challenging in a school where classroom walls cannot be moved. In those settings, if students cannot be placed 6 feet apart, they will be strongly encouraged to wear cloth face coverings.

When a teacher is in front of the room during class — and can maintain 6 feet of distance between himself or herself and students — the teacher will not have to wear a mask. If the teacher moves closer than 6 feet, such as for one-to-one

instruction, they will be required to wear a mask.

Lunch service

Students will be distanced as much as possible. In elementary schools, lunch will be scheduled by grade level with tables sanitized between each seating. In secondary schools, tables will be spaced and students will be encouraged to wear masks in line when physical distancing of 6 feet is not possible.

Playgrounds

Safety and physical distancing requirements will also be maintained during recess. If students are within 6 feet of one another, they will be strongly encouraged to wear a face covering. Supervisors will be trained to provide structured recess activities that include physical distancing, as well as behavior management strategies. Grade levels/classes will be assigned specific areas of the playground.

Layout modifications

Teachers may also put forth efforts to distance students from one another. They may be able to distance desks farther apart than normal. Those with larger class sizes may not be able to do that. Teachers may choose to have students face the same direction rather than facing one another and remove reading corners, etc. to optimize space.



In elementary schools, students will wash their hands before attending classes held in common spaces — InfiniD labs, computer labs, art and music — and be given a disinfecting wipe to clean all surfaces at their station before beginning the lesson. Library visits also will be scheduled.

Large gatherings

Because of the need to stop the spread of COVID-19, large gatherings, such as the typical back-to-school nights, band and choir concerts, may be held differently. No assemblies that include the whole school will be held. If schools can maintain physical distancing of 6 feet, smaller assemblies or performances can be held.

In secondary schools, the timing for class changes will be shortened to discourage congregations of students. Directional signs will indicate expected traffic flow (travel on the right).

At elementary schools, students will be released at the end of the day on a staggered schedule. More information will follow as the school year approaches.



Clean & Disinfect

Cleaning schedule

The district will implement a multi-step cleaning protocol in all schools, to include daily disinfection of touchpoints — drinking fountains, handrails, door handles, sinks, toilets, partition walls and locks. Other daily disinfection will include bathroom floors, student desks and chairs, locker handles and computer mice and keyboards. If there is a concern of possible contamination, buildings will be electrostatically sprayed using a powerful hypochlorous acid that carries an EPA kill claim for COVID-19 and other viruses.

Lunch rooms tables will be disinfected by lunch room monitors, custodians and nutrition staff between each lunch group.

Playground equipment will be disinfected twice a day; once after morning recess and again after lunchtime recess. High touchpoints on school buses, such as the backs of seats and handrails, will be wiped down and sprayed with disinfectant after each riding group. Bathrooms will be cleaned while class is in session.



Shared objects

Students will have assigned classroom seating and will sanitize their own space upon arrival with alcohol-based cleaner and a paper towel. Students will clean all shared hard surfaces such as desks, computers or other equipment when entering and exiting the classroom. Elementary students will be given a disinfecting wipe to clean all shared supplies in STEM, music and art activity spaces.

Lockers will not be used in secondary schools to prevent congregating of students. Students will be allowed to bring backpacks to class in order to keep their belongings separated from others. buildings, moving to a higher efficiency filtration level in HVAC equipment and running HVAC equipment two hours before and after building occupancy.

HighMark Board

Richard Bigler
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Special Thanks to:

Davis County Health Department
Parent, Teacher, Administration Committee

Covid-19 Point of Contact

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